

NSW Cat Fanciers' Association Inc.

George Kennedy – Life Membership

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I'm sure most breeders who know George Kennedy are unaware that he (and his wife Julie), became involved in the cat fancy when they originally owned a Siamese and bred under the prefix of "Nimrud".

In 1973 George became attracted to the Abyssinians and his first breeding Aby was **Kaisoa Seriana** who was born in Sept 1975. Seriana in turn was bred under his current prefix of "Nile" and produced his first kitten, **Nile Nil Desperandum** born on 13 Sept 1976. From then on George has been known for his love of the breed and his "endless" knowledge which has been shared unconditionally over the years with other Aby and Somali breeders along with his many beautiful kittens and cats. Several of them have been exported to various parts of the globe and shown successfully.

George became part of **The Abyssinian Cat Club of Australasia** in the early 70's and contributed his expertise in many ways. He wrote most (if not all) of the current constitution for the Aby club. He was editor of the clubs journal for a period of time and also Secretary of the Aby club in 1977.

Although George's interest was still with the Abyssinian Cat Club, he decided to fulfil a dream of his own and he formed **The Abyssinian Breeder**. His ultimate aim was to unite the Aby and Somali breeders into a loose association of a corresponding, interacting Fancy. He wanted to escape the limitations of small isolated groups and share ideas, breeding practices, bloodlines, breeding goals and experiences across the gamut of geography. He devised a method to gather show points from all the winning Abys/Somalis from around Australia. This task was extremely difficult as each governing body had a different style of judging and procedure, so a system was required which was fair to all. However, George found a rational way to bring it all together to evaluate the top Abyssinian and Somali around Oz each year. These results were shared with the Aby Club of A'sia in a slightly different format each year. In January 1983, George produced the first Abyssinian Breeder magazine and he is still producing this informative magazine today.

Also In 1983, George organised the first Aby Breeder show and this has occurred annually ever since. This very successful show was run in Canberra and brought together many of the Abyssinian cat breeders from nearly all states around Australia. This gave Abyssinian and Somali owners the opportunity to see in person what other breeders were producing and appreciate the Abys/Somalis that only appeared in The Abyssinian Breeder and other magazines. It was also a learning experience in general for most breeders. Although the breeders and the style of Abys and Somalis have changed over time, we all still enjoy the opportunity to show together under overseas and local judges each year. Due to George's generosity in subsidizing the cost of overseas judges, many of us have had the privilege of showing under well-known and highly sought after judges throughout the years.

George has imported Abys from around the world; Ch & (UK) **Ch Lakme Negusa Nagasht** (USA-UK-AUS) Tawny; was his first from the USA. In 1981 he was noted for the introduction of the first blue into Australia by importing **Crownfields Abbai** from the UK. Other imports followed such as **Gold Dbl Gr Ch Lohrengel Barrow Bambi III** (imp USA) Blue; which George thought very highly of. Others were **Dbl Gr Ch Lohrengel Boisenbari** (imp USA) Blue ; **CCCA Gr Ch, Gold Dbl Gr Ch & (US) Gr Ch Zzaby's Pipe Dream DM** (USA-AUS)Tawny, who impacted greatly on the Aby gene pool here and in NZ. More recently arrived was **Ch Ororina's Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson** (NOR-AUS). All these lines were generously shared with other breeders and helped to improve the gene pool of today's Abys.

One legacy that George will be known for is the generous sharing of his database which he has spent numerous hours building from information he has gleaned from the many friends around the globe. This database is recognised for its accuracy throughout the world. George has also built and shared a detailed history of prominent Abys and Somalis in Oz.

Liseen Pittaway,
Merindalee Abyssinians.